

TRINITY NEWS

JANUARY 2014

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063
908-756-2125

Scott Harris, Pastor
Ginger Smellie, Editor
trinitychurchnj.org

Members & Friends,

It's January (or at least it will be by the time most of you get this Newsletter). I know that because the note that Ginger left in my in-box told me that the deadline she was calling my attention to was for the January newsletter. January was bold. January was in all capital letters. January was underlined. Twice. It's January!

January means different things to different people. For some it is the month in which we remember Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For others it is the month in which they celebrate their birthday. For still others it means long cold nights and snow storms and a longing for the warmer days of summer. But it universally is the start of a new year.

January, as the start of a new year, is like a blank page; nothing is written on it yet. We have a certain freedom from this point, as to how we would like to fill up that blank page. There is no trail marked out with predetermined outcomes and expectations. For some people that is a hopeful thing; they enjoy the adventure of blazing new trails and trying new things. For others, a blank page is intimidating. There is something comforting in predictability, in knowing what to expect and what needs to be done and when and by whom. These type of people know that there is a word for having no marked trail and direction – LOST!

I choose to ignore the part of myself that is anxious and to embrace the opportunity that God is providing for us as we start a new year together. It isn't all that bad; it isn't like we are left all alone; God is with us and guides us. God has left us the Bible, with field notes and an overall sense of which direction to move. But God also lets us choose which of the many paths before us that take us in that direction we will follow. Sometimes the way will be easy, other times our journey will take us through some dark and tangled woods and we may begin to wonder if we shall ever see the end of our journey. But we always know that we are not alone, God in Christ is with us!

Let the journey of a new year with its endless possibilities begin!

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott



JANUARY, 2014

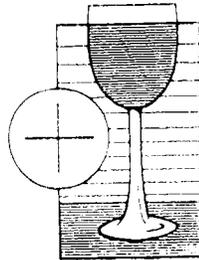
- 4. Robert Sheppard
- 7. Donna Zolkiwsky
- 12. Jason Jackson
- 15. Kathy Harris
- 22. Barbara Kormendy
- 24. Norma Cornelia

NEW ADDRESS

Please correct your address directory.

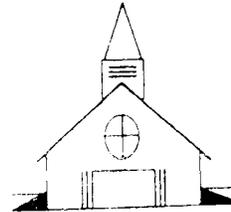
Mr. & Mrs. Phillipe Leville (Camille)
125 Washington Place
State College PA 16801

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - For February News
Wednesday, January 15th



Communion

As we begin a New Year blessed by God's mercy, we gather at the Lord's Table on January 5th, at 10:00 a.m.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, January 19th following worship.

Please remember these members and friends in your prayers.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bunny & Don Adams | Sally McGahey |
| Elaine Conway | Denis O'Hara |
| Norma Cornelia | The Roane Family |
| The Crafton Family | Trinity's Shut Ins |
| Our U.S. Servicemen and Women | |

Prayer List



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley.

* * *

Once again, Broek will be collecting "old" Christmas Cards (front only) to be recycled for use in the Christmas at Sea program. A basket is in the narthex to collect your donations. Many thanks.

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JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Sunday, January 12th in the Library Lounge for a pot luck luncheon.

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THANK YOU

The Beautification Committee says "Thank you" to the Secret Santa for the very generous gift.

Deena Z.



JACOBA CIRCLE continues their food collection since Holiday collections are over.

Please bring one of the following items to church on Sunday morning. Collection boxes are at the entrances to church.

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Meats: Spam, Corned Beef and Stews
- Spaghetti
- Canned Fruit & Juice
- Cereal
- Canned Vegetables
- Soup
- Peanut Butter & Jelly

and non-food items: Toothpaste, Deodorant, Hand Soap, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent

Thank you for helping!

In the month of December we had sermons on the following topics;

12/1/13 – The Non-signs Of The Second Coming (Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44)

At the end of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus disciples were rather impressed with the human accomplishment that was the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus warned them not to be so impressed for someday not one stone of that structure would remain standing! When asked when all this would happen Jesus began to talk about the fact that He would return some day to call history to a close. Christians throughout the ages have tried to predict when this would happen looking for “signs” in the Bible. Christians, however, are never called to determine the date of Christ’s return, but to be ready for Him to come at any time by trusting in Him for salvation.

12/8/13–The Importance of Repentance (Isaiah 11:1 - 10, Matthew 3:1 – 12)

John the Baptist’s ministry preceded that of Jesus, and his message was potentially hard to hear; “Repent!” No one likes to be reminded of their shortcomings! The reason why John had to precede Jesus’ ministry with this message (which was part of Jesus’ own message; “Repent, for the Kingdom of God has drawn near”) is because healing, restoration and forgiveness can only take place when preceded by repentance.

12/15/13 –A Critical Question (Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11)

John the Baptist, despite boldly proclaiming the coming of the Messiah, still had lingering doubts: “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (v. 3). Concerning this question, we can draw two important observations: 1) even great saints can have doubts, and 2) the identity of Christ is a critical issue that each of us must pursue until we answer it to our satisfaction.

12/22/13 – The Significant Saviorhood of Jesus (Romans 1:1-7, Mathew 1:2-11)

The angel was specific about the nature of the saviorhood of the Child who was to be born of Mary. Jesus was sent by God, not to save us from failure, or from poverty, or from addiction, or from lack of self-realization. All these may, in fact, be true, because the saving work of Christ has many significant and positive side-effects. But first and foremost, Jesus—as his name implies— came to save us from our sins. Why is this so important? Because sin, despite being regarded as a quaint and outdated concept, is the most serious and significant factor in human misery and tragedy, destroying our relationship with God, our fellow human beings, and ourselves.

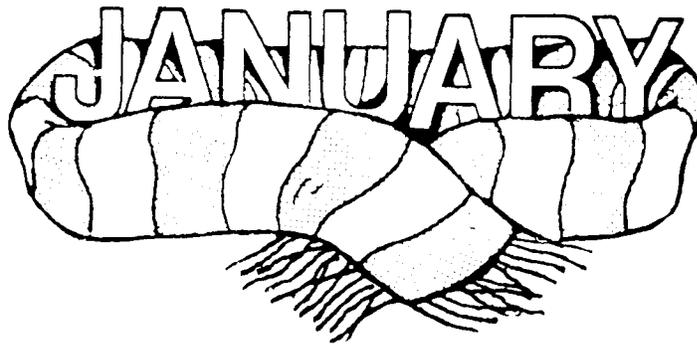
12/24/13 –A Time to Ponder and Praise (Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20)

Each Christmas is an opportunity to follow the example of Mary and ponder the things that the angels said about the Christ child, and to follow the example of the angels and shepherds and praise God for the arrival of Jesus!

12/29/13 – Jesus, the Refugee (Hebrews 2:10-18. Matthew 2:13-23)

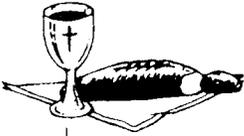
In our age of millions of refugees, from Darfur to Iraq to Syria and many points between, it may be significant to note that Jesus and his family were also refugees. They, too, were homeless. They, too, were separated from family and friends. They, too, in all probability, lived in poverty. They, too, were the victims of a paranoid and heartless tyrant who placed little value on human life.

JANUARY



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

EVERY SUNDAY - WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.

1.	2.	3.	4.		
 Choir 7:30					
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
 Consistory 7:30 pm			Bible Study 7:30	Choir 7:30	
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
JACOBA Noon		BROEK 1:00 p.m.	*** NEWSLETTER Deadline Bible Study 7:30	Choir 7:30	
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
ANNUAL  MEETING			Bible Study 7:30	Choir 7:30	
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.
			Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	Choir 7:30	